

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01044 141125Z

14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04

CEA-01 FEA-01 ERDA-05 FPC-01 INT-05 SAM-01 OES-03

AGR-05 /133 W

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R 041040Z OCT 75

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2434

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

CINCUSAFE

EUCOM

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, IZ

SUBJECT: TURKISH EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ARAB AND OTHER
MUSLIM NEIGHBORS

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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01044 141125Z

REF: A) ANKARA 6867 (NOTAL) B) BAGHDAD 701 (NOTAL)
C) BAGHDAD 1021 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IRAQ DEPENDS ON TURKEY FOR LAND COMMUNICATIONS WITH EUROPE, AS AN ALTERNATIVE OIL TERMINAL ON THE MEDITERRANEAN AND FOR THE REGULAR FLOW OF EUPHRATES WATERS. UNDERLYING THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP IS A REMARKABLE AMOUNT OF GOOD WILL TOWARDS TURKEY AMONG THE IRAQI PUBLIC. END SUMMARY.

2. REF. A NOTED THAT TURKEY HAS IMPROVED ITS RELATIONS WITH IRAQ PRIMARILY IN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. IT MAY BE USEFUL TO NOTE BRIEFLY THE ELEMENTS OF THE IRAQ-TURKEY ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. FOR IRAQ TURKEY IS A VITAL OVERLAND COMMUNICATIONS LINK WITH EUROPE. AS NOTED REF C., IRAQ INTENDS TO FOCUS AT THE COMING TAURUS CONFERENCE ON WEAKNESSES OF THE TURKISH RAILWAY SYSTEM IN MOVING DESIRED QUANTITY BADLY NEEDED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS TO IRAQ. MORE AND MORE IRAQ HAS HAD TO TURN TO TRUCKING FOR MATERIALS NEEDED FROM EUROPE FOR ITS CRASH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. TURKEY IS INDISPENSABLE FOR HIGHWAY TRANSPORT AS WELL AS FOR RAIL DELIVERIES.

3. THERE IS A POLITICAL DIMENSION TO THE "STRATEGIC" PIPELINE NOW A-BUILDING (BY A CANADIAN-US SUBCONTRACTOR ON THE IRAQI SIDE OF THE BORDER) FROM KIRBUK TO DORTYOL ON THE MEDITERRANEAN. THIS NEW LINE WILL DRAMATICALLY LESSEN IRAQ'S DEPENDENCE ON ITS PRESENT LINE INTO SYRIA. SEPTEMBER 22 ISSUE OF PETROLEUM INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY NOTED THE NEW OIL EXPORT FLEXIBILITY IRAQ NOW ENJOYS THANKS TO ITS ABILITY TO XPORT 36-GRAVITY KURKUK OIL FROM NEW MINA AL-BAKR TERMINAL ON PERSIAN GULF.

4. A THIRD ELEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP IS WATER OF THE EUPHRATES RIVER AND TURKEY'S ABILITY TO LIMIT DOWNSTREAM DELIVERY TO SYRIA AND IRAQ. REF. B NOTED THAT GOI HELD TURKEY TO BE FAR FROM BLAMELESS IN THIS RESPECT AND WAS CONSIDERING RAISING OBJECTIONS AT WORLD BANK AGAINST SYRIA AND TURKEY IN REGARD TO A PENDING LOAN. WOULD BE INSTRUCTIVE TO LEARN WHETHER AND WITH WHAT RESULTS IRAQ'S THREAT WAS CARRIED OUT. IN INTERIM EUPHRATES WATERS ARE APPARENTLY AMPLE IN SOUTHERN IRAQ AND THE RICE FARMERS HAVE STOPPED COMPLAINING.
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PAGE 03 BAGHDA 01044 141125Z

5. A FOURTH ELEMENT IS INTANGIBLE: THE TURKS ARE HELD IN REMARKABLY HIGH ESTEEM BY IRAQI PUBLIC. IRAQIS GENERALLY LIKE AND ADMIRE THE TURKS AND THE INTELLECTUALS ARE SENSIBLE OF POSITIVE TURKISH INPUTS INTO THE IRAQI CORPUS JURIS DATING FROM THEIR CENTURIES OF OVERLORDSHIP. ONE HEARS SURPRISINGLY LITTLE CRITICISM OF THE THREE HUNDRED YEARS OF TURKISH RULE IN IRAQ--DURING WHICH MESOPOTAMIA SANK INTO ECONOMIC INSIG-

NIFICANCE AND THE BAGHDAD OF THE ARABIAN NIGHTS BECAME
A SLEEPY TURKISH PROVINCIAL CAPITAL.
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